

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT BULLETIN OF MADAGASCAR PRESS AGENCY (MDP) AND DAILY FRENCH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, MADAGASCAR MATIN, PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OLYMPICS DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 19. THEY ALSO CLOSELY FOLLOWED EAST AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS, AND GAVE VIKING REGULAR, PROMINENTLY-PLACED COVERAGE, WHILE BRIEFLY REPORTING ON US ELECTIONS.

TO REPORT OLYMPIC OPENING DAY, THE DAILY HEADLINED ON FRONT PAGE "MONTREAL 76... WITHOUT AFRICANS". FRONT PAGE PHOTOS DEPICTED OLYMPIC VILLAGE AND SOVIET AND FRENCH ATHLETES. SAID ABSENCE OF AFRICANS NOT FELT DAY BECAUSE EARLY EVENTS NOT AFRICAN-DOMINATED. NOTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES NOT UNANIMOUS ON ROLE OF POLITICS IN LYMPICS. MEANWHILE, GOVERNMENT BULLETIN (MDP) DESCRIBED OPENING CEREMONY AS TRADITIONAL, BUT ADDED THAT "ONE SAW IN THIS OPENING CEREMONY A CERTAIN NUMBER OF SYMBOLS". AS ILLUSTRATION, IT CITED LEBANESE ATHLETES BANNER WITH INSCRIPTION "PAIX, UNITE, LIBERTE".

BOTH SOURCES REPORTED EARLY DOMINANCE OF OLYMPICS BY US, USSR AND GDR, AND EGYPTIAN ADDITION TO INCREASING BOYCOTTERS' LIST. NEWSPAPER DEVOTED MOST OF SPORTS PAGE TO POLITICAL ASPECTS OF GAMES, COVERING IOC BOYCOTT INQUIRY, REACTIONS OF TWO FRENCH IOC MEMBERS... TO BOYCOTT AND NIGERIAN HEAD'S COMMENT THAT MOSCOW GAMES WOULD BE "DIFFERENT".

ON THURSDAY, BULLETIN UNDER HEADING "RACISM AND SPORTS" HEADLINED "OAU HOMMAGE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHO WITHDREW FROM THE OLYMPICS" REPORTED AND QUOTED FROM OAU COMMUNIQUE. MEANWHILE, THE DAILY HEADLINED FRENCH MINISTER MAZEAUD'S SENTIMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT "THE IOC CAN NO LONGER IGNORE POLITICAL REALITY (LE FAIT

POLITIQUE)", AND REPORTED ON HIS TUESDAY COMMENTS. PAPER ALSO PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF OLYMPIC BOYCOTT ON 1978 COMMONWEALTH GAMES. ON FRIDAY, IT FRONT-PAGED NEWS THAT SOUTH AFRICA EXCLUDED FROM INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ATHLETICS.

DESPITE EMPHASIS ON POLITICAL SIDE OF GAMES, BOTH SOURCES PUBLISHED DAILY WINNER'S FIGURES.

FOR EAST AFRICAN REPORTAGE MADAGASCAR MATIN BOLD HEADLINED "KENYA-OUGANDA: RIEN NE VA PLUS". FOLLOWING BULLETIN'S REPORT, IT SAID THAT KENYA CALM IN FACE UGANDAN THREATS. SAID CALMNESS DUE TO PRESENCE U.S. SHIP AT MOMBASA AND U.S. RECONNAISSANCE PLANE OVER BORDER. NEWSPAPER, UNLIKE BULLETIN, ALSO REPORTED LIBYAN STATE MINISTER'S KUWAIT STATEMENT THAT LIBYA AND ALL ARAB STATES SHOULD BACK UGANDA IN FACE OF DANGER.

BOTH BULLETIN AND NEWSPAPER REPORTED REGULARLY ON PROGRESS OF VIKING MISSION. BULLETIN, IN ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED TO AFP, CALLED VIKING LANDING "A GIANT STEP".

ELECTIONS REPORTING INCLUDED STORIES ON CARTER-MONDALE NOMINATIONS, VERY BRIEF STORY ON CARTER CRITICISM OF FORD'S NIXON PARDON, AND PROMINENTLY-PLACED ARTICLE ON BRIEFINGS DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES WILL RECEIVE BY CIA DIRECTOR ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

THE WEEK'S NEWS ALSO INCLUDED PROMINENTLY-PLACED REPORT ON POSSIBLE SECOND KISSINGER-VORSTER MEETING AND FORD AND SCHMIDT STATEMENTS ON WESTERN REACTIONS TO ITALIAN COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER. MADAGASCAR MATIN SAID THAT WESTERN GOVERNMENTS VERY EMBARRASSED BY SCHMIDT REVELATIONS.

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